

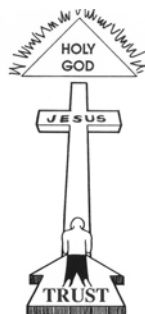
King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

Lesson 0

Are you Born Again ?

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John Wesley was asked why he preached so often on, "Ye must be born again." He answered, "Because ye must be born again." Have YOU been born again? Without the new birth, you have no hope of escaping the terrors of Hell or enjoying the glories of Heaven.

The Lord Jesus said, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

WHAT THE NEW BIRTH IS NOT

It is not religion. Nicodemus was a Pharisee (John 3:1), a very strict orthodox religious man. He celebrated the Passover, paid tithes, said prayers, brought sacrifices and tried to keep the Law. To **HIM** the Lord Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." Being good, keeping the golden rule, joining a church, being baptized or living up to a religious creed will not make you born again. There will be many in Hell who did all of these things. Will you? "Ye **MUST** be born again."

It is not morality.

You may try to keep the Golden Rule, pay your bills, be a good neighbor, stay out of jail, and live a clean, moral life, but that won't make you born again.

It is not recorded that our Lord said, "Ye must be born again," to cowardly, vacillating Pilate, or to two-faced, hypocritical Judas. Why? Because you would say, "I know miserable hypocrites like Judas and men like Pilate need to be born again, but I'm not like them. I wouldn't betray Christ with a kiss after professing to be His friend. I wouldn't order Jesus to be beaten and then turn Him over to a howling, blood-thirsty mob to be crucified. Murderers, rapist, thugs, adulterers, liars, drunkards and gamblers need to be born again, but not I. I'm all right."

My friend, do you realize that God's Son spoke these words on the new birth to a man who was doing his best to gain Heaven? Without a doubt, he was neither a thief, drunkard, nor gambler. He was a true husband, a good

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neighbor, a man of clean morals, and religious. If he needed to be born again, so do you. How do you expect to make it to Heaven without being born again, if Nicodemus couldn't?

It is not reformation.

Even if you would change your behavior and bad habits, that would not be the new birth. Your trouble is not on the outside, but on the **inside**. You don't need exterior decoration, but interior regeneration. Satan wants you to rest in a false peace. We warn you in Jesus' name, don't be satisfied unless you have been born again.

WHAT THE NEW BIRTH IS

It is a mystery you cannot explain, but a reality no man can explain away.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth (pleaseth), and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

Just as Nicodemus could not understand or explain the wind, so no man can understand or explain the new birth. But the wind is a reality no man can explain away. Only a fool would say, "I don't believe in the wind because I have never seen it and I can't understand it."

See the wind move the big limbs of an oak. Watch the wind tear a house to splinters. You cannot deny the reality of wind!

You cannot see the Holy Spirit. You cannot explain Him. But see His mighty power make the harlot pure, the liar honest, the drunkard sober, the blasphemer pray, and then try to deny the reality of it.

It is the work of God

By which a poor, lost, guilty, hell-deserving sinner who receives the Lord Jesus receives a new birth, becomes a child of God and begins a new life. It is a second birth, a spiritual birth.

Physical life begins by birth. Spiritual life begins the same way, not by joining a church and becoming religious. You cannot JOIN the family of God, you must be BORN into it. Someone has said, "You can't make a Christian out of anybody." True Christians are not **made**, they are **born**."

A birth is the coming into being of a new life, which has the nature of its parents. When you were born the first time, you were made a partaker of the old nature, the sinful nature we all received from Adam. When you are born again, you become a partaker of the divine nature (II Peter 1:4). Is this true of you? **DO YOU** have the divine nature?

No matter what kind of religious profession you have made, no matter

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how good a person you may be morally, unless you have been made the partaker of the divine nature, you are not born again. God gives you this new nature the moment you receive His Son. It is instantaneous. When you are born again, you begin living a new life. That is what happened when you were born the first time; you began living a life you had never lived before.

Some think they are going to Heaven just because they went forward in a meeting. Be sure you are born again. There may be a more spectacular change in the life of one who is a drunken, railing blasphemer; but even in you who have not been down deep in sin, there is bound to be a change when you are born again. There will be a new attitude towards the Lord Jesus Christ, His Word, and His people.

Are you **SURE** you have been born again? You may not know the exact day or hour you trusted Christ, but you should be able to say, "I know **NOW** I am born again." If you are not certain about this most solemn matter, I beg of you to tell the Lord Jesus that you are willing to receive Him now. Then read John 3:36 and believe it. *"He that believeth on the Son **hath** ever-lasting life."*

WHY YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Because the Lord Jesus Christ said so.

That ought to settle it.

Because you have a sinful nature.

The nature we all receive from Adam is fallen, corrupt and totally depraved. God says the heart of man is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things. With this old nature you could not enjoy yourself in Heaven. If you can't find any pleasure in a prayer meeting now, how can you expect to enjoy Heaven hereafter. Heaven is a holy place. When you are born again, God gives you a holy nature that you might enjoy yourself in Heaven, a holy place.

Because you cannot save yourself.

When you become born again three things happen to you instantaneously.

1. You are saved from the wrath of GOD (1 Thes 1:10)
2. The Holy Spirit of GOD is sent to live inside of you. (Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19)
3. You inherit a new nature (II Peter 1:4).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).
"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us" (Titus 3:5).

Now don't skip lightly over these six quotations from God's Holy Word.

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Read them again and again until the truth grips you. You cannot save yourself—you **MUST** be born again.

How TO BE BORN AGAIN

"He came unto His own, and His own received Him not, But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:11-13).

It is not of blood.

You are not a Christian just because your parents may be. You do not inherit salvation from your parents. Even though your parents may be saved, if you have not been born again, you are lost and on your way to a devils HELL.

Nor of the will of the flesh.

It is not by your own efforts and/or willpower. If it was, you would fail. So why not stop trying? Instead, trust, receive, depend upon the One who died and rose again.

If I'd ask some of you if you were a born again, you would say, "I don't know for sure, but I'm trying to be, in my poor, weak way." Now suppose you ask Johnny Jones if he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jones and he answers, "I'm not certain, but I'm trying to be in my poor, weak way." How silly, He is not their son because he tries to be, but because he was born into their home.

If you are a child of God, it is not because you are trying to be, but because you have been **born** into **HIS** family.

Nor of the will of man.

It is not brought about by any of man's religious creeds, systems, or ceremonies. No man or organization can do anything to you that will make you born again. Join what you will, go through ceremony after ceremony, memorize creeds, and try to keep the rules and regulations of man-made systems, but it will not make you born again.

I heard a man testify, "I have been the president of the men's Bible class in our church for the past two years, but I didn't get born again until just two months ago." For twenty-two months the president of the men's Bible class, a member of the church, believing in God and the Bible, but lost because he had never been born again.

But of God.

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The Lord Jesus said you must be born "of the SPIRIT." It is God's work, not yours. It is a miracle. Only God can perform it. If God has not done a work in your life, you are not born again. Your part is to believe God's record about JESUS CHRIST, you are to recognize that you are lost and in need of Christ, and receive Him as your Lord and personal Saviour. **HE** died at Calvary, satisfying the righteousness and justice of **GOD**, that He might take your sins and punishment upon Himself. **HE** rose from the dead and is seated today at the right hand of the Majesty on high (see Hebrews 1:3), and He is offered to you as God's salvation.

When you receive **HIM**, you will be born again, for the Bible says in Galatians 3:26 *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."* You do not receive Christ by taking communion. You receive Christ **by faith**. Just ask Him if HE will forgive you of your sins and be your personal Saviour.

A preacher of the Gospel, told me that he was a Sunday School superintendent before he was born again. A lady told me she was a church member 38 years before she was born again. Before it is eternally too late, I beg of you again for your sake, for your family's sake, for Jesus' sake, do not trifle with this thing. Bow at the feet of the risen Lord and ask Him to be your Saviour now. *"He that hath the **SON** hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (I John 5:12).*

Do this right now

Just bow your head and say: Lord, I am a guilty, lost helpless sinner. I believe You suffered on the cross for my sins and died in my place to pay the penalty for my sins, and that You rose again. Will you please forgive me of my sins and give me eternal life? And come into my life and make me the type of person you want me to be?

Now read Romans 10:13: *"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

Did you call upon Him? Then He says you are saved, you have just been born again! See John 6:47: *"He that believeth on me **hath** everlasting life."*

If you followed the above steps sincerely to the best of your ability, then you are born again, you need first of all to Thank THE LORD JESUS CHRIST for purchasing you with HIS own precious blood. HE will never lose you or forsake you and no one will be able to take you away from HIM. Now you need to start living it, read your Bible, pray on a regular basis, fellowship at a Bible Believing Church and witness to those around you about how GOD has given you eternal life through HIS Son THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

Born again

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Your name: _____

Born Again Birthday date: _____

Natural Birthday date: _____

What is your release date: _____

Who would you like us to pray for:

Were you born again after reading this Lesson? _____

Any questions?